

Amendment / Response "F"

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 4-9, 17, 21-23, 25 and 28-33 as shown in the following claims listing:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method to promote the use of consumables in an imaging device including a consumption detecting device, comprising:

detecting consumption of a plurality of consumables~~consumable~~ using the consumption detecting device; and

generating a reward when ~~the consumption of a predefined collective~~ quantity of the individual quantities of consumable has been detected, ~~rewarding a user of the~~ imaging device.

Claim 2 (original). The method of claim 1, and wherein rewarding a user comprises printing a coupon using the imaging device.

Claim 3 (original). The method of claim 1, and further comprising connecting to a global computer network and obtaining, via the global computer network, a certificate verifying the reward.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The method of claim 3, and wherein connecting to a global computer network and obtaining the certificate verifying the reward is performed automatically in response to detecting ~~[[that]]~~ the predefined collective quantity ~~of the consumable has been consumed~~.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, and wherein the detecting
2 ~~[[the]]~~consumption of the consumables~~consumable~~ comprises calculating an
3 estimated consumption of the consumables~~consumable~~.

4
5 Claim 6 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, and wherein the
6 consumables~~consumable~~ can be provided by a plurality of separately identified
7 sources, the method further comprising detecting at least one of the identified
8 sources of the consumables~~consumable~~, and basing the reward at least in part on
9 whether the predefined quantity of consumables~~consumable~~ that has been
10 consumed comprises consumables~~consumable~~ provided by the at least one
11 identified source.

12
13 Claim 7 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, and wherein at least one of
14 the consumables~~the consumable~~ is defined by a standard retail price per unit ~~of the~~
15 ~~consumable~~, and further wherein the reward allows the user to obtain the at least
16 one consumable at a discount over the standard retail price.

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18 Claim 8 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, and wherein at least one of
19 the consumables~~the consumable~~ comprises sheets of media, and detecting
20 consumption of the at least one consumable comprises counting sheets of the media
21 consumed by the imaging device.

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1 Claim 9 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, and wherein at least one of
2 the consumables~~the consumable~~ comprises an image forming substance, the
3 imaging device forms an image by depositing a quantity of pixels of the image
4 forming substance, and detecting consumption of the image forming substance
5 comprises at least one of calculating, measuring, or estimating the deposited
6 quantity of pixels of the image forming substance.

7
8 Claim 10 (previously presented). A method to promote the use of a plurality of
9 consumables in an imaging device including one or more consumption detecting
10 devices, comprising:

11 detecting consumption by the imaging device of individual quantities of the
12 plurality of consumables using at least one of the one or more consumption detecting
13 devices;

14 when a predefined collective quantity of the individual quantities of
15 consumables has been detected, rewarding a user of the imaging device with a
16 reward defined by a value; and

17 basing the value of the reward on the individual quantities of each
18 consumable that has been detected as being consumed by the imaging device.

19
20 Claim 11 (original). The method of claim 10, and wherein each of the consumables
21 are defined by individual consumable values, the method further comprising basing
22 the value of the reward on the individual consumable values.

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1 Claim 12 (previously presented). A method to promote the use of a consumable in a
2 plurality of imaging devices, each of the plurality of imaging devices including a
3 consumption detecting device, the method comprising:

4 detecting consumption of individual quantities of the consumable by each of
5 the imaging devices using the consumption detecting device of each imaging device;
6 and

7 when a predefined collective quantity of the individual quantities of
8 consumable has been detected, generating a reward.

9
10 Claim 13 (original). The method of claim 12, and wherein the reward is generated by
11 transmitting a message to an individual notifying the individual of the reward.

12
13 Claim 14 (original). The method of claim 12, and wherein the reward is generated by
14 printing a reward coupon using at least one of the plurality of imaging devices.

15
16 Claim 15 (original). The method of claim 12, and wherein the consumable can be
17 provided by a plurality of separately identified sources, the method further
18 comprising detecting at least one of the identified sources of the consumable
19 product, and basing the reward at least in part on whether quantity of consumable
20 which has been consumed comprises consumable provided by the at least one
21 identified source.

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1 Claim 16 (original). The method of claim 12, and wherein the plurality of imaging
2 devices collectively consume a plurality of consumables, the method further
3 comprising:

4 detecting consumption by the plurality of imaging devices of individual
5 quantities of the plurality of consumables;

6 when a predefined collective quantity of the individual quantities of
7 consumables has been detected, generating a reward defined by a value; and

8 basing the value of the reward on the individual quantities of each
9 consumable that has been detected as being consumed by the imaging devices.

10
11 Claim 17 (currently amended). Apparatus for providing the user of an imaging
12 device, ~~which is configured to consume a consumable, with a reward based on a~~
13 ~~consumption of the consumable by the imaging device,~~ comprising:

14 a consumable consumption detection device configured to detect quantities of
15 each of a plurality of consumables ~~the consumable~~ that are consumed by the imaging
16 device and to generate consumption signals in response thereto;

17 an electronic writeable memory device;

18 an electronic readable memory device configured to contain a user reward
19 message; and

20 a processor configured to receive the consumption signals and to store a
21 consumption value in the electronic writeable memory device, the consumption value
22 being a function of a[[the]] collective ~~received~~ consumption of the plurality of
23 consumables ~~signals~~, the processor further configured to read from the readable
24 memory device the user reward message when the consumption value is at least
25 equal to a predetermined reward value, and to visually display the reward message
to the user.

1 Claim 18 (original). The apparatus of claim 17, and further comprising a display
2 device, and wherein the processor visually displays the reward message using the
3 display device.

4
5 Claim 19 (original). The apparatus of claim 17, and wherein the readable memory
6 device is a readable-writeable memory device, the apparatus further comprising a
7 computer network communication device, and wherein the processor is further
8 configured to access a global computer network via the computer network
9 communication device when the consumption value is at least equal to the
10 predetermined reward value and to obtain from the global computer network the
11 reward message, and to store the reward message in the readable-writeable
12 memory device.

13
14 Claim 20 (original). The apparatus of claim 19, and wherein the computer network
15 communication device is an embedded web server located within the imaging
16 device.

17
18 Claim 21 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim 17, and wherein at least
19 one of the plurality of consumables~~consumable~~ comprises sheets of media upon
20 which the apparatus can form an image, and further wherein the consumption
21 detection device comprises a sheet counter configured to count sheets of media on
22 which the apparatus has formed an image.

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1 Claim 22 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim 17, and wherein at least
2 one of the plurality of consumables~~consumable~~ comprises an image forming
3 substance, and wherein the apparatus forms an image by depositing pixels of the
4 image forming substance on sheets of media, and further wherein the consumption
5 detection device comprises a pixel counter configured to count the number of pixels
6 of the image forming substance which have been deposited on sheets of media to
7 form an image.

8
9 Claim 23 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim 17, and wherein at least
10 one of the plurality of consumables~~consumable~~ can be provided by a plurality of
11 suppliers, at least one of which can be identified by inspection of the consumable,
12 the apparatus further comprising a consumable identification detection device
13 configured to inspect the consumable and detect whether the consumable has been
14 supplied by the at least one supplier and to generate a supplier identification signal
15 in response thereto.

16
17 Claim 24 (original). The apparatus of claim 23, and wherein the processor is further
18 configured to receive the supplier identification signal, and wherein the consumption
19 value is further a function of the received supplier identification signal.

20
21 Claim 25 (currently amended). A computer-readable storage medium for use by a
22 processor configured to execute computer executable instructions to generate a
23 reward message in response to the consumption of a consumable by an imaging
24 device, the medium holding computer executable instructions to:

25 detect consumption of a plurality of consumables~~the consumable~~; and
when the consumption of a predefined collective quantity of the
consumables~~consumable~~ has been detected, generate a reward message.

1 Claim 26 (original). The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25, and
2 wherein the instruction to generate a reward message comprises an instruction to
3 print a coupon using the imaging device.

4
5 Claim 27 (original). The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25, the
6 medium further holding computer executable instructions to connect to a global
7 computer network and to obtain, via the global computer network, a certificate
8 verifying the reward.

9
10 Claim 28 (currently amended). The computer-readable storage medium of claim
11 27, and wherein the instruction to connect to the global computer network and obtain
12 the certificate verifying the reward is configured to be executed automatically in
13 response to a detection of ~~[[that]]~~ the predefined collective quantity ~~of the consumable~~
14 ~~has been consumed~~.

15
16 Claim 29 (currently amended). The computer-readable storage medium of claim
17 25, and wherein the instruction to detect the consumption of the plurality of
18 consumables ~~consumable~~ comprises an instruction to calculate an estimated
19 consumption of the consumables ~~consumable~~.

20
21 Claim 30 (currently amended). The computer-readable storage medium of claim
22 25, and wherein at least one of the consumables ~~the consumable~~ can be provided by
23 a plurality of separately identified sources, the medium further holding computer
24 executable instructions to detect at least one of the identified sources of the at least
25 one consumable, and to base the reward at least in part on whether the detected
collective quantity ~~of consumable that has been consumed~~ comprises a consumable
provided by the at least one identified source.

1 Claim 31 (currently amended). The computer-readable storage medium of claim
2 25, and wherein at least one of the consumables~~the consumable~~ comprises sheets
3 of media, the instruction to detect the consumption of the consumables~~consumable~~
4 comprises an instruction to count sheets of the media consumed by the imaging
5 device.

6
7 Claim 32 (currently amended). The computer-readable storage medium of claim
8 25, and wherein the imaging device forms an image by depositing a quantity of
9 pixels of the image forming substance, the instruction to detect the consumption of
10 the consumables~~consumable~~ comprises an instruction to at least one of calculate,
11 measure, or estimate the deposited quantity of pixels of the image forming
12 substance.

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1 Claim 33 (currently amended). A computer-readable storage medium for use by a
2 processor configured to execute computer executable instructions to generate a
3 reward ~~message in response to the consumption of at least one consumable by an~~
4 ~~imaging device~~, the medium holding computer executable instructions to:

5 receive consumption signals from a consumption detection device configured
6 to detect quantities of a plurality of ~~at least one of the consumables~~ which are
7 consumed by the imaging device;

8 calculate a consumption value as a function of the collective ~~received~~
9 consumption of the consumables ~~signals~~ and store the consumption value in a
10 readable memory device;

11 determine when the consumption value is at least a predetermined reward
12 value;

13 generate the reward message when the consumption value is at least the
14 predetermined reward value and;

15 visually display the reward message.
16

17 Claim 34 (original). The computer-readable storage medium of claim 33, the
18 medium further holding computer executable instructions to connect a computer
19 network communication device to a global computer network and obtain from the
20 global communication network a reward file, and to use the reward file to generate
21 the reward message.
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1 Claim 35 (original). The computer-readable storage medium of claim 33, the
2 medium further holding computer executable instructions to receive a supplier
3 identification signal from a consumable identification detection device configured to
4 inspect at least one of the consumables and detect whether the at least one
5 consumable product has been supplied by a predetermined supplier, and to use the
6 supplier identification signal to calculate the consumption value.

7
8 Claim 36 (original). The computer-readable storage medium of claim 33, the
9 medium further holding computer executable instructions to cause the imaging
10 device to print a copy of the reward message.

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